

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC MEETING: Henry County Administrative Building, Public Meeting Room 1 on **Wednesday August 8, 2007** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Directions:** From Route 220 take the Collinsville exit. At first stop light, take left onto King's Mountain Road. Administrative Building is approximately two miles on left at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality announces a public meeting to discuss a study to restore water quality in the Smith River watershed and the North and South Mayo Rivers.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacterial pollution in the North and South Mayo Rivers and bacterial pollution and biological impairment (general standard) in the Smith River watershed. The bacteria exceeds water quality standards, which decreases the suitability of the water for swimming, kayaking and other recreational activities involving direct contact with the water. The general standard indicates the water quality is unable to support a natural aquatic community.

The following is a list of the "impaired" waters, the length of the impaired segment, their location and the reason for the impairment: North Mayo River, 22.46 miles, Henry, Patrick Counties, bacteria; South Mayo River, 10.86 miles, Henry, Patrick Counties, bacteria; Blackberry Creek, 14.82 miles, Henry, Patrick County, bacteria; Marrowbone Creek, 4.33 miles, Henry County, bacteria; Leatherwood Creek, 8.34 miles, Henry County, bacteria; Smith River, 6.95 miles, Henry County, bacteria; Smith River, 13.77 miles, Henry County, Martinsville City, bacteria, general standard (benthic).

During the study, the state agencies will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load, or a TMDL, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by September 7, 2007. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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